DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 315 192 PS 018 589

TITLE Christmas Titles.
INSTITUTION North Carolina State Dept. of Public Instruction, Raleigh. Div. of Educational Media.
PUB DATE Oct 88
NOTE 9p.
PUB TYPE Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131)

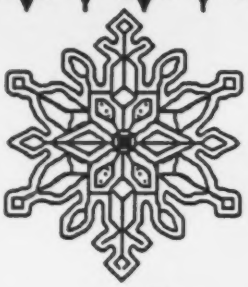
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Annotated Bibliographies; *Books; Elementary Education; *Filmstrips
IDENTIFIERS *Christmas Books

ABSTRACT

Citations and annotations for 17 books and 2 filmstrips for grades K-8 that focus on the topic of Christmas are provided. Citations include author(s), title, publisher, source, publication date, cost, ISBN number, and grade level(s) for which the material is appropriate. A directory provides the addresses of 14 publishers. (RH)

**********
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
**********

ED315192



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy

# Christmas Titles

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

N.C. Dept. of Public Inst.

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Division of Media Evaluation Services
Educational Media and Technology
Department of Public Instruction
Raleigh, North Carolina
October 1988

PS 018389

# CHRISTMAS TITLES 1988

NOTE: Materials on this list were selected from those which publishers and producers have submitted for evaluation. Educators may assume that materials available for purchase not appearing on this list either were not submitted or were considered inappropriate for school purchase.

Although Media Evaluation Services attempts each year to send the special advisory list of Christmas titles well before the holiday, we unfortunately do not receive the fall shipments of books from publishers until September and October. For this reason, it is usually late fall when the advisory list reaches the schools. We hope that you are able to obtain some titles for use this school year; certainly the items listed will contribute to a well-stocked Christmas shelf for next year.

All titles on this bibliography are currently available for purchase. Prices shown are those quoted by publishers and producers, but do not include postage and are subject to change. These materials are on display for examination in the Media Evaluation Center in Raleigh.

PLEASE DO NOT ORDER ITEMS ON THIS LIST FROM THE DIVISION OF MEDIA EVALUATION SERVICES OR FROM THE DIVISION OF TEXTBOOKS. Publishers and producers are listed at the end of this bibliography. An abbreviated or code name for the publisher or producer appearing in the bibliographic entry on this list appears in the DIRECTORY where the complete address follows the code name.

## BOOKS

Barkan, Joanne. THE CHRISTMAS TOY. unp. $12.95. Scholastic Inc., 1987. (ISBN 0-590-40891-7) Grades 2-4

Christmas Eve in the playroom brings some unexpected excitement and danger when Rugby, the toy tiger, decides that he must put himself into a box under the Christmas tree because he is the Christmas toy; even though the other toys try to explain to him that each Christmas brings a new toy, Rugby will not listen; he takes the dangerous step of leaving the playroom to go downstairs and find the Christmas tree; all of the toys know that if a real person finds them out of their places, they will be forever frozen; several toys go after Rugby to try and save him, and downstairs he discovers that there is indeed a new toy to be this year's Christmas gift; miraculously all of the toys make it safely back to the playroom--except for Mew, the catnip toy; but when Rugby whispers "I love you" into Mew's ear, Mew is unfrozen and so are all the other frozen toys in the playroom; the toys discover that Christmas is not about who is the old toy or the new toy but about friends being together; Lawrence Di Fiori's color illustrations enliven and enhance the text; good basis for a discussion of friendship as well as an entertaining story for individual reading

Broger, Achim, retel. THE SANTA CLAUSES. unp. $3.83 paper. Dial Bks. Young, 1988. (ISBN 0-8037-0557-3) Grades K-3

When the newspapers announce that there is no Santa Claus, both adults and children are distressed; then the Santa Clauses of the world hear the news and understand why they are getting so few letters; they hold a convention and decide to go on strike because people have been so quick to believe what they read in the newspapers; little Charlie, who has not given up on Santa Claus, goes to work with his father at the post office; there he finds a postcard to a

Santa who could not join the others at Miami Beach; Charlie becomes a kitchen boy on a ship so that he con get to Miami; there he finds the Santa Clauses in bathing suits and sunglasses and convinces them to end the strike because he believes in them even if nobody else does; the Santa who works Charlie's route lets him help deliver presents (souvenirs from Miami Beach because nobody wrote to Santa with requests); Charlie celebrates with the Santas, and the oldest one tells him that "'to anyone who can imagine us, we are real'"; Ute Krause's full-page, detailed color illustrations and smaller black-and-white sketches are both charming and amusing; brimming with the spirit and the joy of Christmas, this is a delightful book for sharing at school or at home

Daniel, Mark, comp. A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS TREASURY. 105 p. $14.95. Dial Bks. Young, 1988. (ISBN 0-8037-0484-4) Grades K-8

An extraordinarily beautiful volume containing sixty-two poems, songs, stories, scriptural selections, riddles, paintings, recipes, and quotations celebrating the Christmas season and the New Year; includes selections from notable writers, musicians, and artists (e.g., Charles Dickens, Robert Louis Stephenson, Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, John Mason Neale, and Sidney Pike); all focus on Christmas topics, such as family activities, food, nature, and the biblical Christmas story; includes such songs as "Good King Wenceslas," "Away in a Manger," and "Auld Lang Syne"; numerous illustrations include full-color paintings and drawings, some filling double-page spreads; contains information about poets and authors, lists painters, and includes an index of first lines; a truly beautiful book to upgrade any collection of Christmas titles; holds appeal for all ages but, because of the title, might best be chosen for grades K-8; librarians can count on having this book rebound--signatures in the preview copy are already loose, indicating that small hands can quickly remove pages and destroy this prize selection

Heller, Nicholas. THE MONSTER IN THE CAVE. unp. $11.88. Greenwillow, 1987. (ISBN 0-688-07314-X) Grades K-2

Bug-eyed Tobias is almost ready for Christmas--he has presents for everyone in his family, but he is still trying to figure out what to give the monster who lives in the cave at the bottom of the hill; his father, mother, and brother are no help at all, for they do not believe in monsters; his sister, however, helps him make a monstrous cake, and while the rest of the family is sleeping, they visit the monster and help the delighted beast eat the cake; Heller's humorous cartoon-type drawings are filled with interesting details, such as patterned wall paper and gift wraps; too small for showing to groups, book and its tiny plot will amuse youngsters who are having problems of their own coming up with ideas for appropriate Christmas gifts

Henterly, Jamichael, illus. GOOD KING WENCESLAS. $11.60. Dutton, 1988. (ISBN 0-525-44420-3) Grades K-5

Popular Christmas carol, written by J.M. Neale, in picturebook form conveys the true meaning of Christmas; when King Wenceslas sees a poor man gathering wood, he calls his page to find out where the man lives; taking food, wine, and logs, king and page trudge through deep snow to the peasant's home, where they provide and share a feast; exceptionally attractive paintings in greys, blues, and umbers appear on double-page spreads, depicting the action of the story; only four lines of the song appear with each painting, but all five verses and musical score are provided at the end of the book; beautiful volume for teachers

and librarians to use with students when teaching the carol, "Good King Wenceslas"; a first-purchase choice

Holland, Isabelle. THE CHRISTMAS CAT. unp. $9.95. Goldencraft, 1987. (ISBN 0-307-66542-9) Grades 1-5

Three companions--a cat, a dog, and a donkey--all abused by people, find their way to a manger where a baby's sweetness renews their faith in mankind; at the birthplace of a child called the King of Kings, the three animals become beautiful and are lovingly taken home by three kings; Kathy Mitchell's illustrations range from small pictures to rich double-page spreads; story provides a different perspective of the Nativity and reinforces the concept that the love of Christ is transforming to all

Houston, Gloria. THE YEAR OF THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREE: AN APPALACHIAN STORY. unp. $12.89. Dial Bks. Young, 1988. (ISBN 0-8037-0300-7) Grades K-5

Ruthie and her family live in an Appalachian village in North Carolina where it is customary for a different family of the community to give the local church a Christmas tree each year; the year that it is their turn, Ruthie and her father go high on the mountain to select and mark a balsam fir for cutting at Christmas; unfortunately, Papa leaves for the war and does not return before Christmas; by themselves on the night before Christmas, Ruthie and her mother climb to the edge of a high cliff to cut the specially marked tree, singing like angels all the way; that same night, from her own wedding dress, Mama makes Ruthie a special dress to wear as she plays the role of heavenly angel in the Christmas play; at the church celebration when St. Nicholas distributes treats and gifts to everyone, he gives Ruthie the beautiful angel doll from the top of the tree; Ruthie's real treat, however, is her father's return from the war that same night; heartwarming story reflects life in small Appalachian villages even today (family hardships, Christmas plays with paper "pokes" of goodies for all, and a strong commitment to keeping one's word); Barbara Cooney's full-color paintings depict the action of the story; a first-purchase choice for elementary school collections; excellent for reading aloud to very young children and for independent reading by older students

Howe, James. HAROLD AND CHESTER IN THE FRIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS. unp. $12.88. Morrow, 1988. (ISBN 0-688-07665-3) Grades 1-3

Dog Harold recounts the story of puppy Howie's first Christmas and how the little dachshund was afraid of Santa Claus; on Christmas Eve, Howie hides in the basement, causing such a commotion that the whole family is awakened before morning; the understanding humans take the ruckus in stride and decide to open the presents that Santa has already brought; Leslie Morrill's bright, expressive illustrations capture the feelings of the animals in the story and are certain to motivate young readers to talk about their own pets, memories of Christmas, and feelings about Santa Claus

Kimmel, Eric A. THE CHANUKKAH TREE. unp. $13.95. Holiday, 1988. (ISBN 0-8234-0705-5) Grades K-3

The Jewish people of Chelm feel ridiculous when they realize they have been duped into buying a Chanukkah tree for their village; the community project had provided hours of fun and entertainment as men, women, and children brougbt potato latkes, dreidels, and candles to decorate the tree; yet their pride

turned to shame when a visitor pointed out how they had been fooled; the people abandoned the tree but found in the morning that the object of their shame had become a gift of food and warmth to dozens of birds who sought shelter during the night's heavy snowstorm; Giora Carmi's warm illustrations appear on every page, showing traditional Jewish bearded men and kerchiefed women; although the plot is a bit thin and predictable, this book provides youngsters with the opportunity to discuss holiday activities that differ from their own

Kismaric, Carole, adapt. A GIFT FROM SAINT NICHOLAS. unp. $14.95. Holiday, 1988. (ISBN 0-8234-0674-1) Grades 1-4

This Saint Nicholas Eve is a memorable one for a cast of characters in Freiburg, Germany; when Saint Nicholas and his helper reach little Cecile's house, they discover they are completely out of gifts, but the resourceful child helps them get her present, a chocolate ship, from a tight-fisted owner of candy shop; Charles Mikolaycak's color illustrations convey the European setting of the story; can supplement discussions of how Christmas evolved from stories about a real person, Saint Nicholas, who lived in Asia Minor long ago

Kunnas, Mauri, with Tarja Kunnas. Translated from the Finnish by Tim Steffa. TWELVE GIFTS FOR SANTA CLAUS. unp. $10.95. Crown, 1988. (ISBN 0-517-56631-1) Grades K-3

Willie the elf loves Christmas and wants to do something special for Santa; he decides to present the old bearded man a with a gift a day for twelve days; he makes messy Christmas cards, a skating rink that causes Santa to take a tumble, and red woolen cap that says meow; each disastrous gift, however, pleases Santa Claus in some way; the author's busy, cartoon-type illustrations are much more interesting than the scant story; youngsters will laugh at the numerous details of the pictures that add unspoken information to the text

McCully, Emily Arnold. THE CHRISTMAS GIFT. unp. $12.89. Har-Row, 1988. (ISBN 0-06-024212-4) Grades K-1

In this wordless picturebook, a mouse family celebrates Christmas singing together, visiting relatives, opening gifts; in typical fashion, one mouse child's valued toy is broken, but grandfather comes to the rescue with a fascinating train set stored in the attic; full of details, the author's colorful illustrations create a charming sense of the warmth of family and holiday spirit; very young children will enjoy pointing to the pictures and talking about what is happening in each one; most first graders can use the pictures as a starting place for their own Christmas masterpieces

Mariana. MISS FLORA McFLIMSEY'S CHRISTMAS EVE. unp. $10.88. Lothrop, 1988. (ISBN 0-688-04283-X) Grades 2-4

A new edition of Miss Flora McFlimsey's Christmas Eve adventure; living in the attic with only old toys for company, Flora longs for the days when she belonged to a little girl downstairs in the nursery; she remembers her first Christmas Eve and the beautiful clothes and locket she was wearing; wishing so hard to look at the Christmas tree, she becomes able to move and goes downstairs; when Santa Claus discovers that he is missing a doll, he leaves Flora under the tree; the other dolls make fun of her because she is old and wears funny clothes; but Flora is restored to her original beauty when the angel comes down from the top of the tree and brings a trunk with all of Flora's clothes and belongings then

whispers something about Christmas and love into Flora's ear; when the children come into the room on Christmas morning, Flora is their favorite doll, and Flora is most happy to be once again hugged and cherished by a little girl; color illustrations appear on almost every page and complement the gentle tone of the narrative; a fine book for small-group sharing or individual reading

Pearson, Susan. THE DAY PORKCHOP CLIMBED THE CHRISTMAS TREE. unp. $10.95. Prentice, 1987. (ISBN 0-13-197559-5) Grades 2-4

A lighthearted but realistic book about those times in life when everything seems to go wrong; Christmas preparations for Rosie, Nicky, and their parents are marred by an early thaw that sends water pouring through a leaky roof into almost every room, a cat (Porkchop) that loves turning over the buckets of water, Dad's catching a cold, Porkchop's ruining the holiday baking, frozen water pipes, the trail of black ashes left by Porkchop all through the house after he plays in the fireplace, and the Christmas tree falling over because of--of course!--Porkchop; just when Mom and Dad seem unable to take one more thing, they laugh; the night of the Christmas tree fiasco, Christmas Eve, the family exchanges presents and eats popcorn and cookies for dinner; although there are no presents for Christmas morning, the family celebrates with Christmas carols and family stories; it is the best Christmas ever, one that reminds readers that Christmas is in the joy and sharing, not in the perfect preparations or the wrapping paper; expressive black-and-white illustrations by Rick Brown accompany the well-paced, amusing text; a good book for sharing in a discussion of what the holiday season can really mean

Poulet, Virginia. BLUE BUG'S CHRISTMAS. 32 p. $8.25. Childrens, 1987. (ISBN 0-516-03483-9) Grades K-1

Three wide-eyed bugs make plans for Christmas, decorating their own tree with a special star that says, "Peace on Earth"; simple text appears in very large print, only one to three words per page; each page contains a bold illustration of three wide-eyed bugs involved in Christmas preparations; the story line is quite thin and appeals only to very early readers who are thrilled to recognize words on each page; Peggy Perry Anderson's bright illustrations may inspire youngsters to create their own interesting perspectives of a special holiday

Trivas, Irene. EMMA'S CHRISTMAS: AN OLD SONG. unp. $13.99. Orchard Bks., 1988. (ISBN 0-531-08380-2) Grades K-3

The prince asks the farmer's daughter, Emma, to be his wife, but she refuses, thinking herself not suited to life in the palace; the resourceful suitor, however, sends gift after gift, starting with a partridge in a pear tree; in this cumulative tale that recounts the familiar Christmas song, Emma utimately ends up with a whole pear orchard, a dairy herd, and 184 birds; the prince gets his girl though he agrees to come and live on the farm; the author's busy illustrations dance chaotically across double-page spreads, their bright colors perfectly appropriate to the lighthearted story

VanRynbach, Iris. CECILY'S CHRISTMAS. unp. $11.88. Greenwillow, 1988. (ISBN 0-688-07833-8) Grades K-2

The story of Cecily (age two or three), who appears not to understand the Christmas holiday the way her older sister, Amelie (age five or six), does; Cecily wants the Christmas tree sign rather than the tree itself, decorates the dog, sings out of turn at Amelie's school play, eats cookies instead of helping

bake them, prefers playing with ribbon and paper to wrapping presents, and wants to wear her Christmas stocking instead of hanging it; in the end, however, readers discover that Cecily understands the meaning of Christmas after all: she is the first to give presents to everyone; detailed watercolor illustrations cover every page; text is presented in the form of single sentences on alternate pages that show the differences between what Amelie does for Christmas and what Cecily does; children with younger siblings will recognize these amusing situations; a gentle, appealing book for sharing in a classroom or family

## FILMSTRIPS (SOUND)

CHRISTMAS POEMS FOR YOU AND ME. 1 color filmstrip, 1 cassette tape, catalog cards, guide $39. Ency. Brit. Ed., 1988. Grades 1-3

Sound filmstrip with children doing appealing, enthusiastic narration of five Christmas poems and singing a spirited version of "Jingle Bells"; color illustrations complement the content and tone of the poems; guide offers educational objectives, suggestions for activities to be done before and after viewing the filmstrip, and a script; integrates Christmas activities with language arts activities, giving children experience with listening to the language of poetry and opportunities to use their own creativity in choral reading, poetry writing, and illustrating poetry

HOLIDAY POEMS FOR DECEMBER. 1 filmstrip, 1 cassette tape, catalog cards, guide $39. Ency. Brit. Ed., 1988. Grades 1-3

Poems and songs to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza (a traditional African celebration); performed by children, these works together provide students with the knowledge that December has more than one holiday and that not everyone celebrates the same one; color drawings appropriately illustrate the poems and songs; guide includes educational objectives, an introduction to Hanukkah and Kwanza, suggestions for activities both before and after viewing the filmstrip, and a script; works well to combine an appreciation of December holidays with children's own creative responses to the poetry and music (e.g., writing their own poetry, performing choral readings, responding to sound with illustrations)

## DIRECTORY

Childrens - Childrens Press, 5440 North Cumberland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60656

Crown - Crown Publishers, Inc., 225 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10003

Dial Bks. Young - Dial Books for Young Readers, 2 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016

Dutton - E.P. Dutton, 2 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016

Ency. Brit. Ed. - Encyclopaedia Britannica Educational Corporation, 425 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611

Goldencraft - Goldencraft, 5440 North Cumberland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60656

Greenwillow - Greenwillow Books, 105 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016

Har-Row - Harper & Row Publishers, Inc., 10 East 53rd Street, New York, New York 10022

Holiday - Holiday House, Inc., 18 East 53rd Street, New York, New York 10022

Lothrop - Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 105 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016

Morrow - William Morrow & Company, Inc., 105 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016

Orchard Bks. - Orchard Books, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10016

Prentice - Prentice-Hall Books for Young Readers, Simon & Schuster Building, 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020

Scholastic Inc. - Kent Allison, Regional Director, Scholastic Inc., 10833 Monroe Road, Suite 120, Matthews, North Carolina 28105